



PRINCIPAL THOMAS ELSON  
... a bit shaky but on the job again

After 13 weeks absence, six of them being spent in a Los Angeles hospital, Principal Thomas Elson returned to his duties at Torrance high school Monday morning. However he is on a limited schedule yet and will not resume his full work until he is permitted by his physician. Elson's desk contained a large number of bouquets from students and teachers who welcomed him back to the high school. He declared that he was feeling much improved but was still "a bit shaky in the legs from my long confinement in bed." He was stricken nearly four months ago with a serious heart ailment but today the trouble appears to have been relieved.

### Public Schools Week Programs Open to All

All schools in Torrance will observe the 20th annual Public Schools Week, April 22 to 26. This annual educational open-house for parents was instituted in 1920 by the California Masonic lodge and the local Masonic fraternity has supported the Torrance observance since that time.

The program, to which all parents and friends of the school are invited, is as follows:  
**Tuesday, April 23:** At Torrance high school, open-house from 7 to 9 p. m., for visiting of the school plant, exhibits, demonstrations, classes in action with teachers and students receiving visitors in each room.  
**Program in school assembly hall at 8:15 p. m.**, by the T. H. S. orchestra, including greetings from the Torrance Masonic lodge, fashion show by the Home Economics department, boys' tumbling acts and numbers by the Junior choir.  
**Wednesday, April 24:** At the high school, a program by the Chapman College quartet at 10:15 a. m., cafeteria open to public and an invitational luncheon by the Social Arts class.  
**At Torrance elementary school** visitors will be welcome in the class rooms from 9 a. m. to 1:40 p. m. Following this there will be a program in the auditorium, with many interesting numbers planned. The school chorus, directed by Mrs. Brigham, will sing, the harmonica band will play and Mrs. Haydon's and Mrs. Godwin's classes will present a rhythmic band concert. A folk dance will be given by Miss Berry's class, and a radio broadcast from one of the class rooms will be heard. Tea will be served throughout the day.  
**Thursday, April 25:** At the high school, cafeteria open to public at noon, Girls' Athletic Association play-day with mothers as guests.  
**At Fern Avenue Elementary school** regular work in classes with parents invited to attend. On each child's desk will be a folder of his work. Exhibit for fathers, 7 to 8 p. m., Music festival, 8 to 9 p. m., opened by greetings from the Torrance Masonic lodge, a community singing led by Miss Metheny, supervisor of music in the southwest district, numbers by the school orchestra and glee club.  
**Friday, April 26:** At the high school an assembly hall program by the Girls' League and clubs, starting at 2:30 p. m. Numbers by the Seventh Grade Boys' choir followed by a mothers' tea.

### Recreation Data Being Compiled by Local Group

What should a recreation expansion program in Torrance include?  
To find the answer to this question a survey has been started by the character building committee of the Coordinating Council, Rev. Thomas R. Marshall, chairman.  
Questionnaires are being sent to schools with requests for data on pupils from fourth grade to high school age, he said. From the survey the committee plans to recommend a site or sites for a community recreation center and suggest what equipment is needed.  
In addition to carrying on the survey, the Coordinating Council has designated the committee to direct distribution of a summer camp fund and all applications for help in sending boys to Boy Scout, Y.M.C.A., or church camps this summer should be sent the committee.  
Assisting Rev. Marshall are Dale Riley, recreation director; Rev. Harry G. Banks, Cora Bohrer, Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson and Mrs. Hillman R. Lee.

**Plundering Film at Rotary Tonite**  
An amusing film, depicting the trials and tribulations of a plumber, will be screened at the Torrance Rotary club tonight. Fay Parks will present A. Nelson and L. Killian of a water heater company who will bring the screen entertainment.  
**RELIEF LOAD INCREASES**  
The cost of state relief for 11 months of the current fiscal year is \$49,325,000, compared with an average cost of \$31,505,581 per year since 1933, State Controller Harry B. Riley has reported.  
The River Nile irrigates 5,400,000 acres of land.

### Want Ad Rhymes Contest Judges Headed by Torrance Attorney

A number of judges, scattered over quite an area, headed by Charles T. Rippey, Torrance attorney, gave thoughtful study and analysis to the Want Ad Rhymes entries this week and adjudged the following winners:  
**First Prize Winner**  
Mrs. William Hedge, 1828 260th street, Lomita, wins the first prize of \$1. Mrs. Hedge, please call at our Torrance office at your earliest convenience.  
The Want Ad: PACIFIC GLEIST-Crematory-Cemetery Mausoleum-Columbarium-Chapel-Etc.  
183rd & Inglewood—Red. 2338  
The Winning Rhyme:  
"It may be months or, may be years,  
The requiem still brings poignant tears,  
Loved ones sleep there. We pause to rest...  
At this hallowed shrine—Pacific Crest."  
**Second Prize Winner**  
Carol Nothner, 1929 257th street, Lomita, will kindly call at our Torrance office for two tickets to the Torrance theatre.  
The Ad:  
"JORGENSEN'S CLEANERS Lomita District Alterations and Repair Work, Etc. 2122 W. Lomita Blvd., Phone 440."  
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# TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — TWO SECTIONS — 14 PAGES

26th Year — No. 15.

SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1940

PER COPY 5c

## Powell, McGuire Get New Terms; Babcock Elected Member of Council; Election Draws Record Vote

### W. Torrance Sewer System Looms as WPA Project

WOULD COST CITY LESS THAN \$5,000

A civic improvement on which he has been working for nearly a year finally took a big step toward realization the day after Mayor William H. Tolson was defeated in his race for re-election to the city council.

That project is the installation of sanitary sewers in Vista Highlands bounded by Crenshaw (Cedar) avenue, Torrance boulevard, Flower avenue and Monterey street. Tolson attended a meeting of County Sanitation District No. 5 yesterday afternoon when he learned:

(1) That the District had applied for a WPA project to construct the Torrance extension trunk sewer line up Plaza del Amo to Carson street, west on Carson to Crenshaw (Cedar), north to Torrance boulevard;

(2) That the proposed sewer construction would include necessary laterals on all streets with in the Vista Highlands area;

(3) That the WPA would bear the cost of labor and materials if the city of Torrance would pay for the cost of engineering and supervision;

(4) That this cost was estimated by the District as between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

"I believe that the city can do this share of the project for not much over half that estimate," Tolson declared. "The only thing the city will have to do to get this greatly-needed improvement at such a small expense is to act quickly in endorsing the District's application for the WPA project."

**To Make Study of Project**  
Residents of West Torrance have been trying to secure sanitary sewers for more than a year. But the cost, variously estimated at different times as between \$100,000 and \$135,000, has always been prohibitive to the property owners. The district has made rapid progress during the past few years and is becoming one of the most attractive residential areas in the city.

Tolson said that his conference with the Sanitary District's chief engineer, A. K. Warren, brought the statement from the latter:

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### Isen's Liquor Store Clerk Held for Sale of Booze to Student

While Politico-Attorney Albert Isen was in the heat of his campaign to elect his ticket to the city council, State Board of Equalization agents from Los Angeles entered the Isen Liquor Store, (which operates under the fictitious name of "Ralph's") at 1601 Cabrillo avenue at midnight last Friday night following the student dance at the Civic Auditorium and arrested Isen's clerk, Eugene S. Held, 33, for sale of liquor to a minor.

Isen protested the arrest, charging "politics," but the State officers countered with the assertion that they did not even know Torrance was having a municipal election. They booked Held, who lives at 1911 Gramercy, and Robert P. Crivello, 18-year-old Long Beach student, who was accused of buying the liquor, at the city jail.

The liquor store clerk was released on \$15 bail put up by Jack Isen, father of Albert Isen. Held will have his trial next Monday morning, April 15, at 10 o'clock. Young Crivello pleaded guilty to purchase of liquor and will be sentenced Saturday morning, April 20, at 10 a. m.

The Board of Equalization has not yet announced what action it will take regarding the continuation of Isen's liquor store license.

### Present Council Has Busy Session Before Retiring

A number of minor matters of civic business were transacted at the final full session of the present city council last night. The municipal board is scheduled to meet Monday evening, April 15, at 7:45 o'clock when Councilmen Tom McGuire and George V. Powell will renew their oaths of office and Councilman-elect Vern Babcock will be sworn in. A new mayor will be elected shortly afterwards. The Tuesday election returns will also be canvassed.

With Mayor William H. Tolson presiding for the last time over an entire session and Councilman John V. Murray present after a month's leave of absence, the council:

Granted the Torrance High School Alumni Association free use of the Civic Auditorium on the night of April 17 for a card party which is hoped to return enough revenue to take the alumni out of debt incurred at a recent dance.

**Change Walteria Street**  
Received a copy of a complaint sent the Los Angeles police department that a sodium vapor light should be installed at highway 101 and Hawthorne and referred it to the Street department for recommendation.  
Referred the American Legion's application for a permit to sell fireworks next July at the post's usual stands to the city attorney for recommendation.

Granted the request of A. B. Stagner and Joe Sake, builders of a chinchilla farm in Walteria for vacation of a 12½-foot strip of land on the west boundary

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### Multiple Crash Injures Four in Walteria

Seven cars were involved in the multiple collision, four persons were injured, one driver was arrested on a felony charge of driving while intoxicated and two suspects were held for investigation while nearly 200 cars created a traffic jam on Highway 101 near Newton street in Walteria Sunday night shortly before 7 o'clock.

Torrance police spent several hours straightening out the traffic snarl and obtaining information concerning the series of collisions that began when T. Hirata, 2451 Chapman street, Lomita, made a left hand turn into the Masuda farm off Highway 101.

What followed is reported by Police Chief John Stroth:

"The Japanese driver suddenly stopped while making the turn. Mrs. Ronnie Coil of Hermosa Beach, who was driving in the same direction west behind Hirata applied her brakes to avoid hitting him and twisted the steering wheel. Her car turned over.

"She was alone and unhurt but suffered from shock and became hysterical. Instantly other cars began gathering at the scene. One of these, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Hunt and Mr. and Mrs. Parsen of Santa Monica, parked near Mrs. Coil's wrecked car. Another car also stopped. This was driven by Chester MacPherson of Long Beach," Stroth said.

"An Oldsmobile sedan, registered to William Naess of 1669 25th street, Harbor City, going west on Highway 101 struck the back end of MacPherson's car, bounced over and hit a machine driven by Ben Sandefur, 2424 Neece avenue, Walteria, who was just driving around the wrecked cars.

"Then the Naess car struck Hunt's car containing the latter's wife and Mr. and Mrs. Parsen. Next the Naess machine bounced off of Hunt's auto and struck a pickup truck whose driver's name was not learned and came to a stop.

"The driver of the Naess car climbed out of the badly damaged machine and ran east on

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### School Board Asked to Allow Playground at Local School

Permission to establish an after-school and summer playground project at Torrance Elementary school has been asked by Mayor William H. Tolson in a letter to the Los Angeles board of education. WPA, or SRA recreation workers would be available to plan and supervise the playground activities, Tolson told the board.

He pointed out that a centrally-located playground is needed to serve the children in the north part of the city. Recreation Director Dale Riley will also write the school authorities endorsing

### Board Meets Monday to Pick New Mayor

Leading the field with 1,112 votes, Councilman George V. Powell was re-elected to a four-year term on the city governing board as was Councilman Tom P. McGuire, who received 878 ballots in the municipal election Tuesday. Lawrence V. Babcock was second in the standings, tallying 917 votes. All three new members of the city council were elected for four-year terms.

Mayor William H. Tolson, who sought re-election for his third term, was defeated. He received 780 votes to take sixth place in the 15-man race. Carl D. Steele was fourth with 827 votes and William J. Loughridge was fifth with 822.

The remaining nine candidates were given the following totals:

Gordon L. Mann ..... 751  
Wallace H. Gilbert ..... 646  
James J. O'Toole ..... 629  
Grant Barkdull ..... 626  
Lewis M. Fernley ..... 273  
William H. Klusman ..... 94  
Frank Shields ..... 81  
Frank Schmidt ..... 75  
Joe Hagberg ..... 39

The present council will meet next Monday, April 15, at 7:45 p. m. to canvass the vote and swear in the new members. Councilmen James E. Hitchcock and John V. Murray have two more years to serve.

**Who'll Be Mayor?**  
One of the first matters to come before the 1940-41 municipal board will be the selection of the city's tenth mayor. Because of his outstanding vote, it has been suggested that this seat of honor be extended to Councilman Powell, and much favorable comment has been heard around the city hall to this suggestion.

Powell campaigned on the "Greater Torrance" ticket promoted by Albert Isen. Babcock was a member of the labor ticket, while McGuire ran independently.  
The election was the 11th municipal ballot event in the city's history and it drew an all-time record number of voters for a strictly municipal campaign. Nearly 61 per cent, or 2,965 of the city's 4,866 eligible voters, cast their ballots. No disturbances of any kind were reported at the 16 polling places during the day.

William T. Klusman, whose fiery campaign of 1932 won him 1,327 votes, fell far to the rear this year with only 94 ballots. Joe Hagberg of Walteria, who drew 34 votes in 1938, gained five more this week to end the ballot with 39.  
Councilman Powell was elected to his first term on the council in 1936, receiving 502 votes when Tolson led the standings that year with 722 ballots. McGuire was in second place four years ago with 524.  
In winning re-election, Powell repeated his 1936 performance of leading his slate (it was the Torrance Democratic club one that year) and getting the office while his running mates (they were Loughridge and Mann this year and Howard P. Raymond and John M. Minor in 1936) failed to make the grade.  
Mann of North Torrance received the largest single precinct vote of any candidate in the race, getting 124 in his home precinct No. 1. Loughridge was

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### Mercury Thieves Resume Draining Oil Rig Meters

For the second time within a month, mercury valued at more than \$100 was reported stolen Tuesday by the Natural Gasoline Company of 2529 229th street. Plugs on six oil well rig meters near Pennsylvania and 230th street were unscrewed and a total of 45 pounds of mercury, valued at \$135, stolen. L. Stephens, company official, told local police. The firm reported loss of mercury valued at \$153.20 from its meters on March 22.

**LEADS NATION**  
California led the nation in commercial truck crop production in 1939 with a grand total of 564,000 acres from which vegetables valued at \$87,995,000 were harvested.

## Complete But Unofficial Count by Precincts

Precincts	No. 1 Powell	No. 2 Babcock	No. 3 McGuire	No. 4 Steele	No. 5 Loughridge	No. 6 Tolson	No. 7 Mann	No. 8 Gilbert	No. 9 O'Toole	No. 10 Barkdull	No. 11 Fernley	No. 12 Klusman	No. 13 Shields	No. 14 Schmidt	No. 15 Hagberg	Total	
Powell	108	37	45	74	41	68	51	107	76	91	62	102	44	40	64	102	1112
Babcock	23	54	96	79	49	60	76	78	60	43	37	5	93	80	77	7	917
McGuire	34	74	39	49	56	71	68	84	48	46	31	45	46	98	62	28	878
Steele	30	40	96	55	54	72	62	45	51	24	47	8	102	79	55	7	827
Loughridge	101	23	25	55	18	60	25	57	45	69	37	99	25	32	37	114	822
Tolson	34	49	28	43	56	58	65	68	59	36	36	53	32	85	50	28	780
Mann	124	21	26	51	18	46	23	52	42	61	38	88	24	21	30	86	751
Gilbert	16	46	21	31	50	52	67	54	49	13	39	31	38	90	32	17	646
O'Toole	30	57	81	49	17	46	61	33	41	25	32	3	69	40	36	9	629
Barkdull	5	32	40	31	53	72	92	39	33	6	26	14	39	101	30	13	626
Fernley	2	20	32	8	18	29	38	17	14	4	20	3	25	31	12	0	273
Klusman	5	4	8	6	0	3	4	12	10	7	8	0	11	7	6	3	94
Shields	2	8	12	7	5	4	3	12	1	3	4	0	9	4	7	0	81
Schmidt	1	2	12	2	1	6	6	5	7	5	1	0	10	10	5	2	75
Hagberg	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	5	3	6	1	1	1	14	39
TOTAL VOTE CAST	177	168	192	184	150	223	222	230	189	152	149	154	197	247	185	146	2965

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Health—D.C. Way —31

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